

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that improves treatment of wounds to skin or another external body surface in a diabetic animal, the method comprising:

- a) producing a wound in the skin or another external body surface of the diabetic animal;
- b) exposing the wound to an aldose reductase inhibitor compound by topical application of the compound to the wound;
- c) comparing wound healing in the presence of the compound to wound healing in the absence of the compound; and
- d) identifying a compound that improves treatment of wounds to skin or another external body surface in the animal if the wound contracts more in a shorter period of time when treated in the presence of the compound than when the wound is treated in the absence of the compound.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

e) comparing wound healing in the presence of a test compound with wound healing in the presence of a control aldose reductase inhibitor, wherein the test compound is identified as a compound that improves treatment of wounds to or another external body surface in an animal if the wound heals at least as rapidly, completely or less painfully in the presence of the test compound as in the presence of the control aldose reductase inhibitor.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the animal is a human.

5. (Canceled) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the human is a diabetic.~~

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the wound is to skin on an animal.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the wound is produced by punch biopsy.

do not
enter
SGA